To Your Health

Editor's note: This feature is provided as a public service by Southside Community Hospital in Farmville.

Machines have made the farmer's job a lot easier, but they have also taken their toll in hearing loss.

With time, daily exposure to noisy equipment may affect the farmer's ears. In fact, farmers suffer more hearing loss than people in some other occupations.

The most common type of hearing injury among farmers is nerve impairment. The sufferer may hear something entirely from what is said. Words may sound fuzzy, and the victim may accuse people of slurring their words or mumbling.

A person may have hearing loss if he frequently asks people to repeat what they've said, he turns the television or radio up loud, or he can hear better when he is looking directly at the person speaking.

Any time hearing loss is suspected, a doctor should be consulted. To protect hearing, good ear plugs may be worn around noisy equipment. Good ear plugs keep some of the noise out, but permit the wearer to hear. It is also important to buy equipment that runs quietly, whenever possible.

Teacher pay low

A new study from the Virginia Education Association shows Virginia remains substantially behind other states in its financial committment to public education.

According to the study, "Where Virginia Ranks," 33 other states did better than Virginia at paying elementary and secondary school teachers in 1981-82.

Virginia ranks 30th in the nation in current expenditures per pupil for publis elementary and secondary schools in 1982-83. When total state and local expenditures for elementary and secondary schools in Virginia are compared as a percentage of personal income, however, Virginia's rank drops to 36th in the nation.

"Where Virginia Ranks" also reveals that effective buying income of Virginia families and personal income of Virginians compare well to other states, but tax revenue is low.

The effective buying power for the average Virginia household ranks 16th in the nation, and Virginia ranks 22nd in personal income per pupil in school. At the same time, however, Virginia's ranking in state and local revenues, as a percentage of personal income, is among the lowest in the nation (45th). State tax revenue as a percentage of personal income also puts Virginia at a low ranking (38th).

Other statistics from "Where Virginia Ranks" reveal how far Virginia teacher salaries have fallen behind. Over the past decade, 40 other states have advanced teacher salaries at a greater rate than Virginia. All but one of the other Southern states have increased teacher salaries at a higher rate than Virginia.

In the decade from 1971 to 1981, per capita personal income in Virginia rose by 150 percent, but teacher salaries increased only 97 percent.

The VEA research study shows Virginia's national ranking in a variety of other education-related areas, including school faculty, education expenditures, school enrollment, general financial resources and population.

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New guidelines enacted

Graduation to be tougher

By FRANCES ABBITT

It's going to be harder to graduate from high school since the State Department of Education adopted new guidelines pertaining to graduation from a Virginia high school in July 1 of 1983.

These new regulations demand additional units, set standards for a twenty unit and advanced studies diploma, provide recognition for students with a B average or better and spell out specific subjects which must be required for graduation.

In addition, to the units specified, each graduate shall be required to demonstrate mastery of minimum competencies as prescribed by state regulations.

"We are pleased with the tougher standards for graduation," commented Lloyd Walton, superintendent of the Appomattox County School Division. "The emphasis nationwide is to raise the standards of education."

"All students, even those graduating with a 20 unit diploma, will be required to have more math, and science," Walton said.

For those students going directly into the job market, the new requirement will make them better able to cope with the responsibilities of their jobs.

"Approximately 60 percent of the Appomattox County High School graduates enter the job market without further education," said Richard Carter, director of Vocational Education.

"Approximately 40 percent of last years graduating class went on to further their education with approximately 20 percent going to a four year school," Carter added.

The new standards for graduation become effective with the 9th grade class of 1984-85.

Orientation sessions for parents and students are being planned and will be announced at a later date, according to Walton.

"We have to help students accept education seriously," said Walton. "They need to accept the new standards and seek to achieve the higher standards that will be required of them."

"Education is more than the responsibility of the school system", said Walton. "Education is the combined responsibility of parents, school personnel, and local agencies working together to see that the highest possible standards of education are maintained."

Fatal Fire

GARLAND R. BRYANT, 50, of the Sherwill Community near Concord, lost his life in a fire that destroyed the mobile home in which he lived on Saturday night of last week. Bryant was a heavy equipment mechanic for Falwell Excavating Co. in Lynchburg. "The exact cause of the fire has not been determined," said a spokesman for the Campbell County Sheriff's Department on Tuesday morning, "but we feel sure it was an accidental fire." According to his neighbors, Bryant, living alone in the mobile home, attempted to heat his living quarters with only a hot plate and a toaster oven. Although the Concord Volunteer Fire Department answered the call at about 8:30 p.m. they were unable to save Bryant. (Photo by Jeff Spitzer)

Jay Stubblefield chosen to serve by Anderson

Jay Stubblefield, a seventh-grader at Appomattox Middle School, has been selected by State Sen. Howard Anderson to serve as a page in the upcoming session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Stubblefield, who left Monday for the eight-week session in Richmond, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Stubblefield of Appomattox.

He is one of 25 youths across the state of Virginia chosen to serve the legislature during their winter session. One page is chosen from each of the 25 state senatorial districts. Stubblefield is representing the 18th district.

As a page, Stubblefield will be responsible for running errands and performing a variety of tasks for Sen. Anderson.

Stubblefield was recommended for the honor by Appomattox Elementary School. The pages are between ages 13 and 17.

Noting that he has "an interest in government" and is considering a future career in that area, Stubblefield says that he will continue to do his school work while in Richmond. He will receive his assignments from Appomattox, and he will have access to a special tutoring service for pages.

While in Richmond, Stubblefield will stay at the John Marshall Hotel. He says that he will be returning to Appomattox on weekends.

Jay Stubblefield

Town endorses interstate corridor concept

By FRANCES ABBITT

The Appomattox Town Council in Monday night's meeting voted to endorse the Piedmont Interstate Corridor concept by supporting the creation of a permanent and legal organization, with a staff, to promote said corridor, and will participate, when appropriate, in the promotion of said corridor.

The Piedmont Interstate Corridor concept is a proposal, developed by businessmen, government officials and political leaders to seek an interstate corridor parralling U.S.29 from Greensboro, North Carolina to Northern Virginia, extending through Maryland and connecting with I-83, northwest of Baltimore.

The request for support of the Piedmont Interstate Corridor concept came from the Central Virginia Planning District Commission.

Council appointed Billy Conner to fill the unexpired term of Thomas Lawson on council. The vacancy was created when Lawson submitted his resignation to assume the duties of Commonwealth Attorney.

In other business, council voted to endorse the Virginia Community Certification Program.

With improved job opportunities and capital investments in the Commonwealth as primary goals of Virginia's citizens, the Virginia Community Certification Program has been developed to assist communities across the commonwealth to achieve these goals by becoming more attractive for the location of industry and related economic development.

The business of attracting jobs and investment is extremely competitive. Therefore, any community desiring to enhance and expand its economic base must improve its competitive position. This program provides a framework within which Virginia communities can measure their degree of readiness to actively engage in economic development.

The program includes seven major components: the local economic development organization, community information requirements, quality of life requirements, the local contact team, financial capability, local existing industry program, and sites and building requirements.

Each of these major components has several standards to be met. The requirements of this program, by which individual communities attain certification, are not designed to be easy. Consequently, attainment of certification status will require dedicated community effort. This is not a competition between communities but rather a standard to be met.

The objectives of the Virginia community certification program are:

1. To provide a program of work by which a community can become a better prepared one for industrial and economic development.

2. To improve the preparedness of the community leadership and to enhance their ability to successfully promote economic developement in their communities.

3. To give the Virginia division of industrial development a better inventory of communities to bring to the attention of industrial prospects seeking new plant locations.

4. To provide public recognition to those communities making the effort to become better prepared for economic development.

5. To enhance the community spirit within Virginia through the involvement by community residents in the several standards of the certification program.

6. To provide benchmarks against which a community can measure its preparedness and readiness for economic development.

In still other business council granted permission for Moses Motor Company, Inc. to erect two signs, one to be place at the entrance to 460 and the other sign designating the service area, on the condition they have permission of the Virginia Department of Highways and the signs and erection sites meet with the approval of the town manager prior to erection.

Bill Dudley publishes book of letters to his son

By FRANCES ABBITT

Although retired since October, 1980 as assistant supervisor of agricultural education in the Virginia Department of Education, William C. Dudley, of Pamplin has kept busy during the past four years. He has written a book, "Letter To Our Son, The Ag Teacher". The book came off the press in December of '83.

Dudley who spent 44 ½ years working in agricultural education ... 10 years as a teacher and 34½ as supervisor, is well qualified to give advice to beginning ag teachers. The book is composed of individual letters written to his son, William C. Dudley, III of Luray, who was teaching ag at the time the book was written.

"Dos and don't for success in teaching agriculture" covers problems encountered by young ag teachers.

"The situaitons described in the book are real," said Dudley. "The negative situations have fictious names and places while the positive situations name real people and places."

Dudley, born in Montgomery County, graduated from Christiansburg High School, attended Virginia Tech where he earned a degree in agricultural education. He later received a master's degree from the University of Virginia.

He taught vocational educaiton in Amherst County for five years. Following that, he became a teacher of agriculture in the Appomattox and Pamplin High Schools remaining in that position until April of 1946 when he was appointed area supervisor of agricultrural education for Southside Virginia with headquarters in Appomattox.

In 1967 he was named "Man of the Year in Forestry" by the Virginia Forestry Association. In 1973 the national organizaiton of Future Farmers of America awarded him its highest honor, The Honorary American Farmer Degree.

Dudley, married to the former Margaret Ligon of Pamplin, is a member of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin. He serves as deacon, Sunday School teacher, and has served as associational officer of the Baptist Association.

In addition to his church work, Dudley has served as Past Master of Amherst Masonic Lodge, Past Master of Appomattox Masonic Lodge, and Past President of the Lions Club.

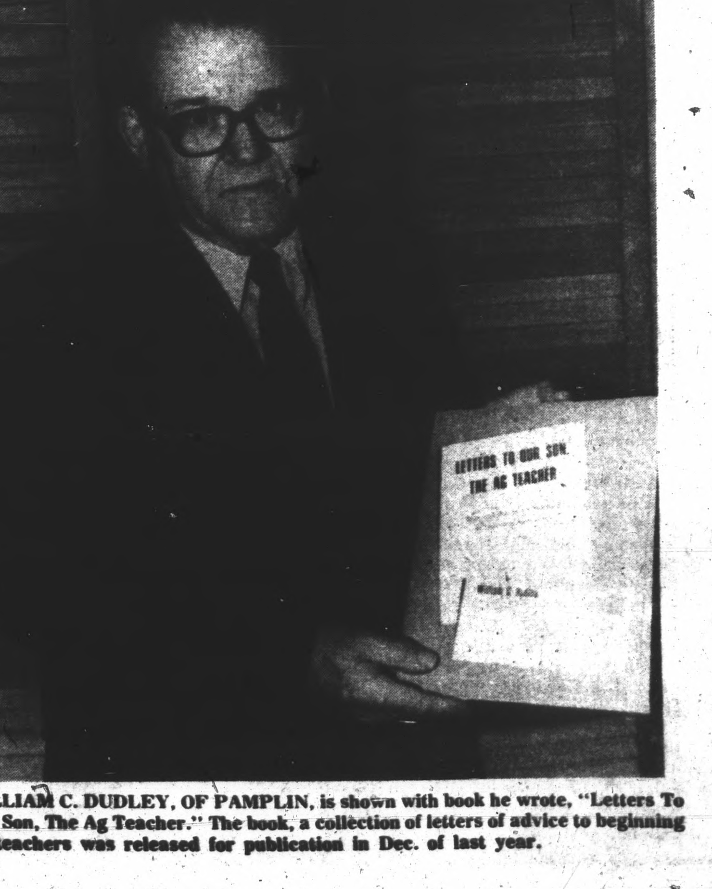
The Dudleys are members of the American Rose Society; they grow approximately 75 rose bushes each year. They are also members of the Margaret Watson Bird Watchers Club. They enjoy studying the habits of birds with other interested friends.

Although active since his retirement, Dudley who had a serious heart attack in 1975, leads a very disciplined life, walking several miles every day.

Dudley, who spent four years, "off and on" working on his book, said, "70 percent of the people and schools are real and 30 percent of them are fictitious, but all the situations are ones that I have experienced."

"Helping teachers achieve their goal and helping young people get established in their field has been one of the greatest joys of my life," said Dudley.

The book, which may be ordered from The Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois, 61832-0594 for $8.95, has been adopted by several universities as required reading for agricultural education majors.



WILLIAM C. DUDLEY, OF PAMPLIN, is shown with book he wrote, "Letters To Our Son, The Ag Teacher." The book, a collection of letters of advice to beginning ag teachers was released for publication in Dec. of last year.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Busiest day of the week? Try making it TODAY.

The old notepad runneth over, so let us see what I make a memo about. First item is about Lebanon, a prime topic in the news these days. Look up Psalm 92, twelfth verse. Something good can indeed come out of Lebanon - Cedar!

* * * *

Thanks to Robert Taylor III (Bobby) for bringing me a collection of newspapers such as Kingsport, Tn., and Scott County (Gate City weekly). How about high schools with famous names. Daniel Boone H.S. 57, David Crockett H.S. 47. Bobby was accompanied on the visit by his mother, Mrs. Lynda Taylor. His father is an engineer with B&W. Bobby is in eleventh grade and is interested in Journalism. Mrs. Taylor is a teacher.

* * * *

And thanks to my friend, Claude Moore, for bringing me a copy of The Seattle, Washington, Post-Intelligencer, Jan. 5 issue. Headlines were of severe flooding in that area. Mr. Moore is manager Specialty Manufacturing, Field Technical Services, B&W.

* * * *

Sports note. Ricky Caldwell, Class of 1983 ACHS, is playing basketball at Hampden-Sydney College.

* * * *

Notepad item. Ms. Hazel T. Smith, Rt. 2, Hollywood community of Appomattox County, is looking for someone to tune an old family organ.

* * * *

The Virginia Legislature opens a new session Wednesday. Our area is represented by veteran members and their seniority will help.

* * * *

Congratulations to Shane Abernathy, 20, a 1980 graduate of ACHS, and now a Junior at Roanoke College. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Cloud Abernathy, Lee-Grant Ave., Appomattox. Shane is a star basketball player. Plays center or forward. Six foot seven inches. Uniform No. 24. Roanoke College plays in College Division III. Won all of its regular season games. Played in Rochester, NY against Nazareth College, of N.Y. and won 89 to 87 in three overtimes. Shane scored 26 points. He has a good scholastic record, too, a 3.29 average. He may go in for further basketball, maybe even in European area if an opportunity opens. But eventually he has his eyes on a teaching and coaching career. Also interested in business administration. Proud of you, Shane, take a bow.

* * * *

Am still reading a recently published book, Lee, The Last Years. Note that after the Civil War Lee visited many states and scenes connected with his career. But he never came back to Appomattox, where he met with Grant April 9, 1865. Everywhere he went in his last years he was given tumultous ovations, so great was the respect for him.

* * * *

Thanks for reading and keep Appomattox Town and County Growing.

Lions Club meeting set

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet on Thursday evening, Jan. 12 at 6:45 at the Country Fare Restaurant. S. David Thomas, Jr., District Governor of 24-B from Lynchburg will make his official visit to the Appomattox Club.

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